

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 907

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ritch Campbell upon being named Murfreesboro City Schools K-4 Level Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ritch Campbell is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ritch Campbell, a kindergarten teacher at Erma Siegel Elementary School, has recently been selected as Murfreesboro City Schools K-4 Level Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell attended kindergarten at First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, Bellwood Elementary School, Central Middle School, and Riverdale High School before graduating in 1982; he continued his education at Middle Tennessee State University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1988, a master's degree in 1992, and an education specialist's degree in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell has served with acumen and alacrity as a uniquely gifted and devoted educator for the past seventeen years. He began his career as a special education teacher at Northfield Elementary, serving for two years beginning in 1989; he taught second grade at Black Fox Elementary School for two years and taught gifted students for a year at Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School, and he has served as a kindergarten teacher at Erma Siegel Elementary School since it opened in 1998-99; and

WHEREAS, dedicated and enthusiastic, Ritch Campbell focuses on making learning fun for his students, believing that children should be actively involved, and should, "learn without

even knowing they are learning”; for example, he will spend part of a morning playing the guitar while his kindergarteners and visiting second-graders sing the names to all the United States presidents, states, state capitals, and other facts that few adults have at their command; and

WHEREAS, Ritch Campbell is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens. Erma Siegel Elementary School Principal Barbara Tuckson praises him, saying, “He is multi-talented. He uses humor and music in order to get those children to learn things you would perceive is impossible for them to learn. He has mesmerized the kids by telling them what they can do. He gets them feeling excited; gets them challenged. They respond to him in such a healthy way”; and

WHEREAS, Ritch Campbell truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Ritch Campbell is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Guen, a self-employed day-care provider; two children, fourth-grader Alanna Johnson, and fifth-grader McKenna Johnson, both at Erma Siegel Elementary School; and parents, Butch Campbell, a principal at Rutherford County’s Walter Hill Elementary School, and Janie Campbell, a secretary at Murfreesboro’s Bellwood Discovery School; and

WHEREAS, Ritch Campbell truly epitomizes the model of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ritch Campbell of Erma Siegel Elementary School upon his selection as Murfreesboro City Schools K-4 Level Teacher of the Year, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

